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THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEXES.

Karl Bücher has recently published in the *Allgemeines Statistische Archiv*, for 1891-92, Part II, a paper entitled *Ueber die Verteilung der beiden Geschlechter auf der Erde*, originally read before the *Verein für Geographie und Statistik zu Frankfurt a Main*.

This paper is of more or less popular value, and the conclusions are based almost entirely upon statistical facts derived from provinces in Germany rather than from the entire world. Bücher's main thesis is to show that sexes are not evenly distributed throughout the globe, and that there is in all places a tendency towards preponderance of one sex.

It is impossible to ascertain at present the exact proportion of men to women upon the earth's surface, because of the inexact returns, when there are any, from uncivilized countries. Still, whatever may be the inequality between members of both sexes in the world at large, we find upon limiting ourselves to certain portions of it, in which statistics are accurate, that there is a decided inequality.

Of the five great divisions of the earth Europe alone has a preponderance of females. In America, Asia, Africa, and Australia males are more or less in excess. The subdivisions of each of these continents show the same inequalities. Thus in Europe we find a preponderance of males in seven of twenty-eight states, and an excess of females in the remainder. In America, too, there is a difference between the west and the east of Canada and the United States. In these countries the west invariably has a preponderance of males, but the inequality becomes less and less in approaching the middle regions; and in the east women are in excess.

The table shows great variations in the proportion of men to women in different parts of the world. Up to the present time the excess of females has been considered as due to emigration or unnatural causes, but Bücher thinks that these causes do not fully account for the differences, and believes that there must be some deeper reason, although he does not tell us what it is.

Confining himself to portions of Europe where statistics are complete and reliable he gives many illustrations, showing that equality is never reached. In France, for example, a country which has been frequently taken to illustrate a tendency towards equal numbers of both sexes, he shows that the equality is only apparent. Here unnatural

causes furnish more men than women, and the natural inequality is thus balanced. The true result should be based on the relation of births and deaths, and this in France for the six years 1881-86 is as follows:—

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Females to 100 Males.</i>
Births, ...	2,857,001	2,726,467	954
Deaths, ...	2,629,963	2,434,448	925
Excess, ...	227,038	292,019	1,286

In the cities of Germany we find a preponderance of women, but the standing armies so affect the registration that it is difficult to ascertain the true proportion of males to females at any particular place. Leaving the floating population out of consideration, and counting only those who were born and reared at the same place, we find in German cities 104 boys born for every 100 girls. These girls, however, have a better chance for longevity than do the boys, and to such an extent that between the ages of 20 and 30 years the numbers of the two sexes are about equal.

The preponderance of females over males in some of the European cities is shown by the following table:—

	<i>Females to 1000 Males.</i>		<i>Females to 1000 Males.</i>
Stockholm, ...	1,176	Antwerp, ...	1,057
Gothenburg, ...	1,176	Liege, ...	1,096
Hague, ...	1,204	Geneva, ...	1,191
Rotterdam, ...	1,202	Berne, ...	1,182
Amsterdam, ...	1,186	Copenhagen, ...	1,172
Bruges, ...	1,291	Paris, ...	1,050
Ghent, ...	1,146	Vienna, ...	1,124
Brussels, ...	1,144	Prague, ...	1,171

Bücher argues that, if this greater loss of boys were caused by emigration, accidents, and similar agents of removal, we must look for like causes in those countries where males predominate, as Italy, for example. This he considers improbable, and concludes from it that the tendency is towards inequality of distribution of the sexes.

Bücher's conclusions, however, do not prove much either way, and his illustrations should have included cities and countries more widely separated. If emigration and surroundings are not of much consequence in determining the proportion of men to women, newly settled lands should show no variation in this proportion from time to time, and, for the same people, no variation from that of the native countries. On the other hand, it is a well-known biological fact that environment has much to do with the question of sex.

The following table shows the relation between the sexes in various parts of the world:—

TABLE SHOWING THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEXES. (Abridged.)

I. COUNTRIES OF EUROPE.	Year.	Date.	Male Population.	Female Population.	Females to 1000 Males.
Russia.....	1886	.....	42,499,324	42,895,885	1,009
Germany.....	1890	Dec. 1..	24,231,832	25,189,232	1,039
France.....	1886	May 30.	18,900,312	19,030,447	1,007
Great Britain and Ireland.....	1891	Apr. 5..	18,388,756	19,499,397	1,060
Italy.....	1881	Dec. 31.	14,265,383	14,194,245	995
Austria.....	1880	"	10,819,737	11,324,507	1,047
Spain (with Canary Islands)....	1887	"	8,608,532	8,950,776	1,039
Hungary.....	1880	"	7,799,276	7,939,192	1,019
Poland.....	1886	.....	3,977,406	4,279,156	1,076
Belgium.....	1890	Dec. 31.	3,062,656	3,084,385	1,007
Sweden.....	1890	"	2,317,105	2,467,570	1,065
Portugal.....	1878	Jan. 1..	2,175,829	2,374,870	1,091
Roumania.....	1860	.....	2,276,558	2,148,403	944
Netherlands.....	1889	Dec. 31.	2,228,487	2,282,928	1,024
Bulgaria.....	1881	.....	1,519,953	1,462,996	962
Switzerland.....	1888	Dec. 1..	1,427,377	1,506,680	1,055
Finland.....	1889	Dec....	1,152,111	1,186,293	1,030
Greece.....	1889	.....	1,133,625	1,053,583	929
Denmark.....	1890	Feb. 1..	1,059,222	1,112,983	1,051
Servia.....	1890	Dec. 31.	1,110,731	1,052,028	947
Norway.....	1891	Jan. 1..	951,496	1,037,501	1,090
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	1885	May 1..	705,025	631,066	895
Total for all of Europe.....	....	.....	170,818,561	174,914,119	1,024
II. AMERICAN COUNTRIES.					
United States.....	1880	June 1..	25,518,820	24,636,963	965
South America.....	....	.....	6,581,284	6,241,733	949
Mexico.....	1882	.....	5,072,054	5,375,920	1,060
British North America.....	1881	.....	2,288,196	2,229,735	974
Cent. America and West Indies	....	.....	2,170,430	2,042,535	941
Bermuda Islands.....	1890	.....	7,767	8,117	1,046
Greenland.....	1888	Dec....	4,838	5,383	1,112
Total for America.....	...	.....	41,643,389	40,540,386	973
III. COUNTRIES OF ASIA.					
British India.....	1891	.....	112,150,120	108,313,980	966
Tributary States.....	1891	.....	31,725,910	29,675,150	935
Japan.....	1888	.....	20,008,445	19,598,789	979
Russian Possessions.....	1885	.....	7,914,431	7,112,178	899
Total for Asia.....	....	.....	177,648,044	170,269,179	958
IV. COUNTRIES OF AFRICA.					
Egypt.....	1882	May....	3,401,498	3,415,767	1,004
Algeria.....	1886	.....	2,014,013	1,791,671	889
Total for Africa.....	....	.....	6,994,064	6,771,360	968
V. AUSTRALIA.					
.....	....	.....	2,197,799	1,871,821	852